

Maine Report Is Likely to Mean War

RUMBLING

To a Terrible Eruption Is the Volcano of War.

WHILE HOPING THE BEST

Government is Grimly Preparing For the Worst.

THREE NEW BATTLESHIPS

War Secretary Creates the "Department of the South"—Enormous Purchases of War Materials.

Washington, March 11.—Hoping for the best, and prepared for the worst, about represents the situation in the war and navy departments these days. The officials still profess confidence that there is to be a peaceful outcome of the present threatening difficulties, but meanwhile prepare with severity to meet their duty if events should shape themselves otherwise.

The most important and significant developments of the day were the decision of the house naval committee to place in the naval appropriation bill a provision for three new battleships, and a conclusion on the part of the secretary of war to issue tomorrow morning an order creating a new department, within its confines to be that of the country which would be in all likelihood nearest the field of hostilities in case it should come to that. The order will create a command in the south. The present department of Texas is abolished and the headquarters, which have been at San Antonio, Texas, for so many years, are abandoned. In place of the old department is created a new one, the department of the south. General Graham, at present commander of the department of Texas, will command the new department. This department will include the states of South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. All of these states save the last are at present attached to the department of the East, under command of General Merritt of New York. It is said at the department that General Merritt is fully compensated for the strength of the command which passes away from him by the addition to him of the forces of the two new regiments of artillery. Headquarters of the new department of the South will be at Atlanta, Ga., chosen because of its strategic value, and its excellent railroad connections. At present the government has no accommodations in Atlanta for the headquarters of the department, so it will be obliged to hire the most available buildings.

General Wilson, chief engineer, who has been in Florida, is expected back tomorrow to report to Secretary Alger upon the appropriation for the fortification works in that section of the country, and probably especially as to the defense of Fort Fisher.

For the first time today the officials of the war department admitted that they were straining every nerve to improve that part of the defenses of the country confined to their care. It is without question the most unusual mark of confidence in an executive officer that he is given five orders without limit for the purchase of war material, yet this is what the president and Secretary Alger have done in the case of General Flagler, chief of ordnance. And the officer has not shown any disposition to shirk this large responsibility, but has instructed every concern capable of supplying war material, such as rifle-fire guns, shot, shell and ammunition, to go to work at full capacity.

COAST ARTILLERY PLACED

That Arm of the Service is Being Stationed With Promptness.

Washington, March 11.—Fort Mifflin in Baltimore harbor will be selected as the headquarters of one of the new regiments of artillery instead of Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., as was originally proposed. This change, it is said, is due to considerations that have been made to the secretary of war that both the new regiments should not be located in New York but one should go farther south. The selection of Fort Mifflin as the headquarters of one of the regiments will not be altered.

Orders were issued at the war department today for manning the newly established fortifications on the Atlantic coast from Boston down to Galveston on the Gulf. They include the organization of the two new artillery regiments, Nos. 6 and 7, authorized by a recent act of congress. The sixth regiment will have its headquarters at Fort Clinch, and the seventh regiment its headquarters at Fort Mifflin, Maryland. The location of these two regiments at the points indicated will necessitate the transfer of the artillerymen now occupying those garrisons to other garrisons. Batteries A and C of the first artillery are at Fort Clinch and batteries C and D of the fourth artillery are at Fort Mifflin. In organizing the new regiment six men will be taken from each of the batteries now in service, so that each of the new batteries will have at the rate of 15 experienced artillerymen.

The orders for the manning of the new batteries demand the utmost promptness in their execution and it is expected that the improvements of the troops to the various places assigned them will begin within the next 48 hours.

The new fortifications on Long Island head, at the entrance to the harbor, will be guarded by a battery of the Second artillery now at Fort Adams, R. I. For the operation of the big guns on Sandy Hook, two batteries now at Fort Mifflin, one at Fort Hamilton and another at

THREE NEW WARSHIPS

As Good as the Maine, Each to Cost \$5,000,000.

BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

On Naval Affairs Inserted in the Naval Bill.

Washington, March 11.—Three new battleships of the staunchest type are authorized by the house committee on naval affairs today, and a provision for their construction inserted in the naval appropriation bill. At the same time the committee agreed upon a maximum price of \$400 per ton for armor plate for our vessels, increased the force of naval mines by 43 men, and put matters in fair shape for a decision tomorrow on the construction of dry docks, probably four in number, capable of accommodating the largest sized war vessels. The committee was in session practically all day, and before the decision on the increase of ships was reached there was a long and interesting discussion. Representative Tate (Dem., Ga.), while favoring an increase, believed that two vessels would be ample and that further expenditure beyond the point of necessity should be avoided. Representative Lousenslager of New Jersey protested that if the strength of the navy was to be increased at all, it should be to the extent of three new vessels built and armed to meet any vessel afloat. Representative Hawley of Texas moved that a cruiser be substituted for one of the battleships, but subsequently withdrew the motion. When the vote was taken there was but one dissenting vote. Mr. Tate insisted that two battleships would be sufficient to meet present needs. The new warships provided for will be of the finest pattern, and it will be two years doubtless before they can be placed in commission. One of them, the committee decided, should bear the name of the ill-fated Maine. The appropriation for their construction was not fixed, being referred to the sub-committee on appropriations, which will report to the full committee tomorrow. The cost, it is expected, will be about \$5,000,000 each, though for the fiscal year covered in the bill the amount of expenditure may not exceed \$2,000,000 each. An important question was raised as to whether the expenditures for the new ships should be defrayed out of the \$50,000,000 emergency bill, but this subject was passed over.

The committee also agreed upon a provision authorizing the secretary of the navy to purchase armor plate by contract or otherwise at a cost not exceeding \$400 per ton. This was agreed to, however, only on the express provision that this item should include the nickel used in the armor, for which a large outside percentage heretofore has been paid by the government. This limit of armor contract price has been generally expected, and with the exception of the insertion of the nickel as to nickel, met with little opposition in the discussion.

One of the most important features of the work on the bill was an agreement on an appropriation of \$15,000 for outfitting, rationing and uniforming 43 additional marines. This increase in the naval force was made the subject of a special and urgent report to the house after the submission of the regular recommendations.

The question of establishment of new dry docks went over for action tomorrow. It was thoroughly discussed today, and the outlook is that four new dry docks will be authorized, two on the Atlantic coast, one on the Pacific coast and another on the Gulf. If the present expectations are materialized tomorrow, these docks will be authorized to be constructed at Boston, Mass.; Astoria, New Orleans; Mare Island, Cal.; and League Island, Philadelphia.

With the amounts to be paid for dry docks and for armor plate the aggregate not yet determined the bill as it stands carries in all something like \$16,000,000, which, however, will be largely augmented by the other items. Rapid progress has been made with the bill, and it is likely it will be in shape to report to the house on Monday or Tuesday.

TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYERS

This is the Class of Vessels Needed

New York, March 11.—Speaking of the possibility of the United States obtaining naval vessels abroad, John Platt, of Thorpe, Platt & Co., of this city, the American representative of John I. Thornycroft & Co., of Chiswick, England, one of the largest contractors of torpedoes and torpedo boat destroyers in Great Britain, says:

"I have just returned from Washington, and I am assured that this government desires now, more than any other class of vessels, a fleet of torpedo boat destroyers, and arrangements will undoubtedly be made to build a fleet of ten vessels of the Thornycroft type in this country. By working day and night the shipbuilding yards can have them ready in seven months. The Thornycroft vessels are considered the most successful type of torpedo boat destroyers ever constructed. England has already about sixty of them and others building, and Thornycroft & Co. are constructing a number of them for Germany and Japan."

WHERE SPAIN WOULD STRIKE

Army Gazette at Havana Has the Places Picked Out.

New York, March 11.—A Havana dispatch to the Tribune says:

The Army Gazette publishes a map of the coast and points out where Spain's navy will strike effectively when war begins. The action of congress in voting \$50,000,000 credit is published without a comment. Neither the officials nor army officers seem to understand its meaning. Confident with this action Havana commercial houses have now further weakening credit, to the effect that the Spanish bank in Madrid is refusing government bills of exchange from Cuba.

SHAGGY OLD SEA DOGS

But Not To Old To Fly at Spain's Throat.

LIABLE TO BE CALLED OUT

Lots of Good Service Left in the Retired Veterans.

Washington, March 11.—In anticipation of a rupture between the United States and Spain, many naval officers on the retired list have notified the secretary of the navy of their willingness and readiness to perform any duty in the line of their profession that he may deem suitable for them. There seems to be considerable misapprehension on the part of the general public as to the availability of officers on the retired list for active duty in times of war. Section 192 of the revised statutes, bearing on this subject, provides as follows:

"No officer on the retired list of the navy shall be employed on active duty except in time of war."

Under this section it is apparent that if war should break out all officers on the retired list competent to serve will be subject to the orders of the secretary of the navy. A statute bearing on the subject, contained in sections 1043 and 1044 is as follows:

"In time of war the president, with the advice and consent of the senate, may detail officers on the retired list for the command of squadrons and single ships, when he believes that the good of the service requires that they shall be so placed in command. In making said details, the president may select any officer not below the grade of commander and assign him to the command of a squadron with the rank and title of 'flag officer,' and any officer so assigned shall have the same authority and receive the same emoluments as if he were in active service. The president may also select officers of his squadron holding commissions of an older date than that he would be entitled to receive if his commission was the oldest."

It thus appears that the president has power to assign any retired officer of the navy to duty during the progress of war, but that he can only assign him to the command of squadrons or ships by and with the advice and consent of the senate. There are many officers on the retired list in the full enjoyment of health and mental vigor, despite the fact that they are now sixty-two years of age, whose ability and experience would undoubtedly be of great advantage to the nation in case it proved necessary to go to war in the defense of its honor and dignity. Notable among these is Rear Admiral John G. Walker, recently retired.

MAY BUY BRAZIL'S SHIPS

Prospect Good For Securing the Amazonas and Her Sister.

Washington, March 11.—The war department has now reason to believe that it has secured the two warships, the Amazonas and her sister ship, now building in England for Brazil. It was stated at the cabinet meeting today by Secretary Long that the naval attaché at London, Lieutenant Colwell, had almost completed the negotiations for the sale of the two ships to the United States. So far, however, the final notification from him that his offer has been accepted, has not yet reached the navy department.

Most of the time of today's cabinet meeting was taken up in the discussion of measures which have been put into operation for the acquisition of naval vessels by the government. One of the members said after the meeting:

"It is now altogether probable that we will secure two vessels that are under construction for the Brazilian government. It is not possible at this time to say just how many ships in all the government will be able to secure. It has options on a number that have been offered, but nothing is likely to be definitely accomplished in the way of acquiring them until an examination is made into their condition, for which purpose a naval officer has been dispatched abroad. We do not want a lot of ships, but we want a few that are able to do their duty, and now find are not up to expectations. I should not be surprised if the president would be able to get five or six vessels in all. The fact is notorious that there are not a great many really good vessels to be had, but I should not be surprised if we were able to get a half-dozen formidable ones at least. The \$50,000,000 appropriation for war preparations will be expended in this country except such as may be used in the purchase of ships and in the acquisition of munitions of war that are not obtainable here."

"Yes, I think the sympathy of the British government in this controversy is with the United States. At any rate she does not side with Spain. I do not mean by this statement to have you infer that the Englishmen will openly advocate our cause and extend substantial help, but that they will give us their moral support."

EVERY CENT MUST COUNT

Long Cautions His Undertakings Against Jobs and Extravagance.

Washington, March 11.—The secretary of the navy has determined that there shall be no wasteful extravagance in his department in the expenditure of the funds so generously provided by congress, and to this end he has addressed the following letter to the assistant secretary of the navy, the colonel commander of the marine corps and to each of the bureau chiefs of the navy department:

"Sir.—Under the emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 made Wednesday, you will incur no expense or liability except after written statements and estimates made by you and approved by the president and secretary, all in writing. A special record must be kept of every such requisition. If any such liability of expense has been incurred by you by oral direction, make such written statement and estimate and submit it at once to the order of the president."

"Very respectfully,
JOHN D. LONG, Secretary."

SILENCE IS OMINOUS

Still no Published Word From the Inquiry Court.

THRILLING RUMOR ESCAPES

But is Sternly Strangled by the Department.

CAPTAIN PERAL ARGUES

Why He Thinks the Disaster Was Accidental—Other Authority for a Clear Case of Devilishness.

Washington, March 11.—The day passed again without word from the court of inquiry, according to the statement of Secretary Long, who says that he has received nothing whatever from the court itself or from Judge Advocate Marix.

The statement was persistently circulated this afternoon, and in some cases the report came from those whose sources of information should be reliable, that the administration was in possession of intimations or information that the result of the investigation of the court of inquiry as to the cause of the Maine disaster would show that the explosion which destroyed the battleship came from some external agency. A cabinet officer was even quoted as making this announcement and another report had it that the stenographer's notes of the inquiry were before the secretary of the navy.

Dealing with Mr. Cannon's comparison of the condition of the United States treasury with those of other countries, the Statist says:

"He forced that Russia, a poorer country than the United States has over \$100,000,000 in gold available in war purposes. The large surplus in the United States treasury is due to Mr. Cleveland's gold loans and the sale of the Union Pacific railroad. Subtracting the gold reserve against the greenbacks, only \$2,000,000 is available. Therefore, in view of the considerable annual deficit, it seems incredible that the secretary of the treasury would draw considerably on his cash balance without fresh taxation."

It is entirely without foundation. "There is not a word of truth in them," he said. "No word has been received by the president or any one else as to what the board of inquiry will determine. The rumor was floating about all afternoon, but it is entirely without foundation."

Havana, March 11.—Captain Sampson seems to have recovered from his slight indisposition and the United States naval court of inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine over which he presides is pursuing its usual course.

The court did little today spending much of the time watching the wreckers at work. Commander Conroy and Captain Sibbald were in consultation with the court, though not officially.

LAUNCH BLEW UP FIRST

Master-at-Arms Lost Points Out a Fact as Far Overlooked.

New York, March 11.—The Herald will tomorrow print the following:

John R. Lead, who was master-at-arms of the battleship Maine, and who came to New York in command of four other survivors, who were not assigned to duty at Key West, has been given shore leave and is living with his brother-in-law, Louis Heine, in Jersey City. He has been very guarded in his statements to reporters. Police Captain Archibald McKelvey says, however, that to his friends Lead has said that a significant fact had been apparently been overlooked was that the launch of the Maine, which was at a little distance from the ship, blew up before the Maine did.

NOT TO BE BLOWN UP TWICE

Sigsbee Won't Anchor the Montgomery Over Another Mine.

New York, March 11.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Havana says:

Many soldiers were among the people on the water front who watched the Montgomery entering the harbor. The feeling was rather sullen and an occasional utterance was heard against the Americans. This was especially the case when the salutes were fired. However, there was no open demonstration. The officers have complied with all of Captain Sigsbee's requests regarding anchorage. He stated vigorously but courteously that the place originally selected was not satisfactory. The Montgomery is now anchored within a few hundred feet of the wreck of the Maine.

SPANISH COURT OF INQUIRY

Captain Peral Tells Why He Thinks It Was an Accident.

Havana, March 11.—Today Captain Peral, president of the Spanish naval court of inquiry into the cause of the Maine disaster, granted an interview to the correspondent of the Associated Press, when he authorized him to say that it was the first and only interview he had given any newspaper on the subject of the inquiry. Captain Peral speaks excellent English. With him in the naval court is Lieutenant Salas. He has power to call in for consultation any army or navy engineer or expert on explosives or marine building, and he has twice called on such and will do so again when necessary.

"Our duties are hard at work examining the hull of the Maine. Great difficulty is experienced owing to the deep mud in which the hull is buried and the condition of the wreck forward of amidships. The whole forward part of the ship is a mass of iron and steel debris. We have blasted up much of it, but in the mud it is not always possible to tell what parts of the ship, armor, deck, beams or stanchions are found, the explosion so changed their positions."

"We think we have located the ram, or prow, but not in the position supposed. The forward turret, mounting two large guns, was blown clear of the hull into the water on the starboard. We shall continue our work and try to examine the hull forward down to the keel. It is probable that we may propose to the American authorities to raise the hull by means of the floating dock brought from England and now in Havana harbor."

"We cannot believe there was an external cause. The explosion was internal."

Continued on Sixth Page.

DID NOT J. BULL AID

With His Advice What Would Uncle Sam Do?

NOTICE GRAVELY GIVEN

That If There is a War It will Cost Lots of Money.

London, March 11.—The Statist today discusses the financial side of a possible Spanish-American war. After pointing out the expense of hurriedly creating an American army and strengthening the navy, it agrees that the United States would eventually obtain command of the sea, adding:

"Then, if Spain submitted, the expenditure would rapidly end and the war might not cost very much."

Continuing, the Statist says:

"But if Spain prolonged the contest the United States would find itself in an embarrassing position. The creation of a large army to drive Spain out of Cuba would mean a considerable expense, and, when accomplished, what would the United States do with Cuba?"

"Lastly, if Spain then refused to submit, would America, after capturing the Spanish West Indies, extend the war to Europe?"

"The collapse of Spanish credit might force her to peace; but if Spain simply defaulted her debt and devoted the money she could raise in any way to protracting the struggle, the cost to the United States would certainly be very great."

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Continued on Sixth Page.

HE SPEAKS FOR SPAIN

Senator Louis Polo Y Barnebe is Free to Talk.

AUTONOMY IS HIS TEXT

Important Speeches When He Meets the President.

Washington, March 11.—Senator Luis Polo Barnebe, the new Spanish minister, was seen at the Spanish legation today by an Associated Press reporter, and for the first time since his arrival consented to speak concerning Spanish affairs, observing such reference on certain phases as diplomatic propriety required.

Since the minister's arrival he has received a cablegram from Captain General Blanco stating that the Cuban cabinet had designated Senor Sevilla of the Havana chamber of commerce to act with Senor Angulo in negotiating a commercial treaty between the United States and Cuba. The minister referred incidentally to this fact, as he regarded it as another evidence of the complete autonomy which Spain has granted to Cuba. Although Senor Polo will be the plenipotentiary in arranging a Cuban treaty, the Cuban delegates to be named by the Cuban cabinet will have entire control of the terms of such a treaty.

POLO ON AUTONOMY

Speaking of the present policy of Spain in giving autonomy to Cuba, the minister said:

"The government has granted autonomy on the broadest and most liberal lines. It is designed to give to the Cuban people the complete direction of their internal affairs, thus gratifying the honorable ambition of the Cubans, while at the same time maintaining the historic allegiance of Cuba as a colony of Spain. The government is not executing this plan gradually, with any technical restrictions. On the contrary, it declares that the largest degree of property for the island may be expected from such a measure of reform as will meet the cherished expectations of Cubans loyal to Spain. Already much has been accomplished, and there is the fullest confidence that the plan will be carried into full execution. Naturally, with insurrection dragging towards its close, there are difficulties in the way of a complete realization of plans so comprehensive as to embrace the entire internal machinery of Cuba. The autonomous cabinet is organized, and its funds in the direction of the domestic affairs of the island, pending the meeting of the Cuban parliament. The date for the parliamentary elections, and for the assembling of the senate and house have been fixed, as Senor Moret, minister of the colonies, told me just as was about to sail that the decree fixing the date of the elections in Cuba was about to be signed. With the elections held, Cuba will have for the first time a parliament of her own, capable of dealing with all her domestic affairs. Thus a complete plan of local government will be in operation with an executive branch and a legislative branch. The autonomous cabinet will be in operation, and the government of the island will be in the hands of the Cuban people. 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